

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3834

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, US

SUBJECT: GREEK PRESS REACTION TO U.S.- GREEK AGREEMENT

REF: ATHENS 3700

1. THE AFTERNOON PRESS APRIL 16, IN DISCUSSING TODAY'S TOP STORY, THE U.S.-GREEK AGREEMENT REACHED YESTERDAY, DIVIDES ESSENTIALLY BETWEEN THOSE NEWSPAPERS WHICH GENERALLY EXPRESS SATISFACTION AND TAKE THE LINE THAT THE GOG HAS BEEN VINDICATED IN THE POSITION IT TOOK FOLLOWING THE U.S.-TURKISH AGREEMENT, AND THOSE OPPOSITION PAPERS WHICH EXPRES DOUBTS ABOUT WHAT GREECE REALLY GOT OUT OF THE DEAL. IN ANY CASE, INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE "DEBATE" IN THE PARLIAMENT TOMORROW MORNING IS LIKELY TO BE SHARP AND THE OPPOSITION CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE PACKAGE OF UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED IN THE WASHINGTON TALKS BETWEEN  
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SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS.

2. THREE PAPERS THIS AFTERNOON TAKE THE LATTER TACK. TA NEA (LIBERAL, OPPOSITION), PERSISTING IN THE CRITICAL AND NEGATIVE VEIN IT FOLLOWED YESTERDAY, HIGHLIGHTS ITS VIEW THAT THE U.S.-GREEK AGREEMENT DOES NOT OFFER OFFICIAL AND CATEGORICAL GUARANTEES BUT RATHER ONLY "PERSONAL (BY SECRETARY KISSINGER) UNDERTAKINGS WHICH DO NOT ASSURE GREECE'S DEFENSE." RATHER, IT ARGUES THE AGREEMENT MERELY AIMS AT FACILITATING THE APPROVAL BY CONGRESS OF THE U.S.- TURKISH AGREEMENT. ELEFTHEROTYPIA (LEFT-OF-CENTER, ANTI-U.S.) SEES THE WASHINGTON EXCHANGES AS STRENGTHENING NATO AND HIGHLIGHTS ITS BELIEF THAT THE POLITICAL OPPOSTHION WILL PUT FORWARD A STRONG ATTACK ON THE AGREEMENT DURING TOMORROW'S DISCUSSION IN THE PARLIAMENT. FOR ITS PART ATHINAIKI (LEFT OF-CENTER, PRO-PASOK) STRESSED IN ITS COVERAGE THE BELEIF THAT THE OPPOSITION WILL "HAMMER AWAY" AT THE AGREEMENT IN THE PARLIAMENT. ITS LEAD FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ARGUES THAT THE AGREEMENT NEITHER PROTECTS GREECE'S AEGEAN POSITION FULLY NOR DOES IT PROVIDE FOR A SUBSTNTIAL SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. IT ASSERTS RATHER THAT THE AGREEMENT ONLY FULLY ASSURES THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF AMERICAN BASES IN GREECE.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, VRADYNI (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT) CASTS A POSITIVE LIGHT ON THE AGREEMENTS REACHED, SAYING "GREECE WAS VINDICATED" AND ITS POSITIONS SUBSTANTIALLY STRENGHTENED. ITS HEADLINE EMPHASIZES THAT "IN ADDITION TO AID, GUARANTEES (ARE GIVEN) FOR THE AEGEAN BEGINNING NOW." VRADYNI ALSO DEVOTES A FRONT-PAGE STORY--WITH ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPH--TO THE MEETING YESTERDAY BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AT THE WHITE HOUSE, AND QUOTES SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMARKS AT THE LUNCHEON FOR FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS. FINALLY, APOYEVMATINI (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT), IN ALMOST LYRICAL FASHION INTRODUCES ITS BOXED FRONT-PAGE STORY WITH THE LEADER "CARAMANLIS TRANSPORTED BY JOY." THE STORY ASSERTS INTER ALIA THAT GREEK DEMANDS IN TOTO WERE MET FULLY BY THE WASHINGTON INITIALLED AGREEMENT AND JUSTIFY THE HARSH BATTLE WHICH GREECE FOUGHT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. MANY OF THE PAPERS TODAY ALSO CARRIED, IN STORIES FILED FROM WASHINGTON, INDICATIONS OF LIKELY TROUBLE IN CONGRESS ON BOTH THE U.S.- GREEK AND U.S.-TURKISH AGREEMENTS. THIS ISSUE WAS PRESENTED IN ITS FULLEST BY TA NEA WHICH CARRIED ON ITS LAST PAGE A SPECIAL BOXED STORY HEADLINED "JOHN BRADEMAS (SAYS) ' THE AGREEMENTS WILL NOT BE RATIFIED'".

THE STORY--ACCOMPANIED BY A PHOTO OF BRADEMAS--STATES HIS BELIEF THAT THE OPPOSITION OF CONGRESS TO THE U.S. - TURKISH AGREEMENT "WILL NOT EVAPORATE" MERELY BECAUSE AN AGREEMENT WITH GREECE HAS BEEN SIGNED. HE ARGUED THAT THIS IS SO BECAUSE TURKEY CONTINUES TO VIOLATE AMERICAN LAW CONCERNING THE USE OF U.S. ARMS, AND BECAUSE TURKEY REFUSES AS WELL TO TAKE STEPS TOWARDS CONCLUDING A JUST SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS TRAGEDY. BRADEMAS ALSO PUT BOTH "THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON NOTICE," ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THAT CONGRESS WILL CONTEST THEIR POLICY OF SIGNING MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENTS AS WELL AS THE POLICY OF INTENSIFYING THE ARMING OF BOTH TURKEY AND GREECE. FINALLY, REPRESENTATIVE BRADEMAS IS REPORTED AS ASSERTING THAT CONGRESS WILL ARGUE AGAINST A POLICY WHICH EXTENDS AID IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN U.S. BASES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES.  
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